

## R E M A R K S

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 4, 6-8, 10, 11, 13-14 and 16 are allowed.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 12 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being not new over Taniguchi et al. (U.S. 6,122,250).

Applicant's claims 1 and 12 recite: writing a unique absolute node identifier given to each of said plural optical transmitting apparatuses and a relative node identifier given by relating absolute node identifiers of other nodes with said topology in said crossconnect information of said data link channel on the basis of said topology created by said topology creating means;

Applicant's claims 1 and 12 also recite the squelch table creating means.

Applicant's claims 1 and 12 provide a BLSR structure with both a squelch table and a unique absolute node identifier and a relative node identifier.

Taniguchi, describes a method for squelching using a modified squelch table (col. 11, lines 18-19). By using the modified squelch table a squelch decision is made by a simple comparison of the modified node IDs. The squelch table is used when failure occurs for preventing an optical signal being transmitted from being connected to an inappropriate node where a loss of the optical signal could occur. The squelch signifies an operation performed by each node to add an AIS (Alarm Indication Signal) to the optical signal.

In the modified squelch table of Taniguchi, the stored modified ID of each node is compared with one or more magnitudes of the modified node IDs of nodes which signals cannot reach. This is performed at the time of failure to determine the squelch operation..

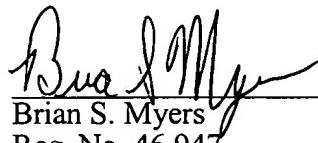
However Taniguchi fails to teach the writing a unique absolute node identifier and a relative node identifier given by relating absolute node identifiers of other nodes with said topology.

Applicant's claims 1 and 12 include at least his distinguishing feature. Claims 3, 5 and 9 depend from claim 1 and claim 15 depends from claim 12. The dependent claims include at least the above distinguishing feature and further limit the respective independent claim. It is respectfully requested the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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